

IT'S POLITICS AND IT'S PERSONAL: LBJ & TRUMAN



Objective

Examine the relationship between Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson throughout their political careers.

Focus

Presidential Relationships



SENATORS

Truman headed the Senate Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program

LBJ served on the Armed Services Committee and was the youngest elected Minority Whip (1953)



THE FDR YEARS

Truman was selected to be FDR's running mate in 1944.

Truman seemed to 'come out of nowhere' (nevermind the 9+ years serving as a Senator).

LBJ had politiked his way to being FDR's "Texas Man." Not only did LBJ align himself with New Deal initiatives, but he provided FDR with "insight" on Texas politics.

LBJ was a frequent face in the Roosevelt White House.

TRUMAN HAD LBJ'S NUMBER

LBJ's reputation for being a skilled politician and a master manipulator was seen first-hand by Truman when they served in Congress and when Truman was Vice President.

Truman did not have the same *perspective* of LBJ that FDR had.

When Truman became President, LBJ no longer had the same access or impact on the Oval Office as he did before.

But, the two got along well.



Senator Johnson and President Truman at the Farewell Luncheon for Outgoing Senate Secretary Leslie L. Biffle at the Capitol, January 2, 1952.
Photo Credit: United Press

LBJ WAS NOT A FAIR DEAL SUPPORTER

While being a big advocate for the New Deal, LBJ did not have the same support for Truman's Fair Deal.

The main motivation for this was not so much the policies as it was LBJ separating himself from the description of being a "New Dealer" to gain more support from his Texas constituents.

LBJ was vocally against Truman's

- National anti-lynching & poll tax laws
- Extension of the Fair Employment Practices Committee
- Condemnation of the filibuster
- Civil Rights legislation

"We of the South" speech, 1949

YET, TRUMAN STILL SUPPORTED LBJ'S SENATE CAMPAIGN AND LBJ SUPPORTED TRUMAN



Congressional candidate Homer Thornberry (left) is introduced to President Harry S. Truman (third from left) by Congressman and senatorial candidate Lyndon Johnson (second from left). Behind the President is (from left to right) Mrs. Bess Wallace Truman, Margaret Truman, and Texas Governor Beauford Jester. September 26, 1948 in San Antonio

1948 WAS A PIVOTAL YEAR

LBJ was trying to secure the Democratic nomination and Truman was running for the Presidency.

Truman's Remarks in Bonham, Texas on September 27, 1948

Speaker Rayburn—I say that advisedly—Governor Jester, Governor Turner of Oklahoma, and distinguished guests:

I have a warm spot in my heart for Texas. Texas has given me some of the best friends a man ever had, and a great many of them are on this platform with me tonight. There's John Myer, and Wright Patman, and Lyndon Johnson—candidates for Congress in the great State of Texas, who are real men, and who have always been for the people first. And then you have nominated a man for the Senate, my good

Bob Kerr, for the Senate in Oklahoma, and if those Republicans dance in the next

one of the finest and best friends of them

so we could talk a little politics. I'm glad so your Government—and interested in the next November.

ernment, as it has been in the past; and the party that works for the people.

ans are putting on an immense propaganda tremendous sums of money and lining up

I just don't believe they're going to get away with it. We Democrats are going to see that the American people know the facts. When they do, I don't think the people will be taken in by slick Republican propaganda. I don't believe that Texas—or the rest of the United States—wants to go back to the days of Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover.

The country will make a fundamental decision on election day—a decision which will affect you every year and every day for the rest of your lives.

The people will have to decide between the Democratic and the Republican Parties; and that is really a decision between two different kinds of government...

MUTUAL BENEFIT



President Adolfo Lopez Mateos of Mexico visit to the LBJ Ranch: Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, President Truman, and guests pose for cameras at the head table. October 18, 1959



Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, and Mrs. Fred Vinson at a Democratic fund-raising dinner, April 30, 1960

That's not to say they didn't work together!



LBJ OVER TIME

1930s

**FDR's
New Deal**

Ardent Support

New Congressman (1937)

1960s

**JFK's
New Frontier**

Party Platform

Vice President

LBJ WOULD NEED TRUMAN MORE THAN TRUMAN WOULD NEED LBJ





BIRDS OF A FEATHER?

Transitioned from Vice
President to President

Overcame tragedy to take
office

Both took office when
international conflict was
growing/occurring

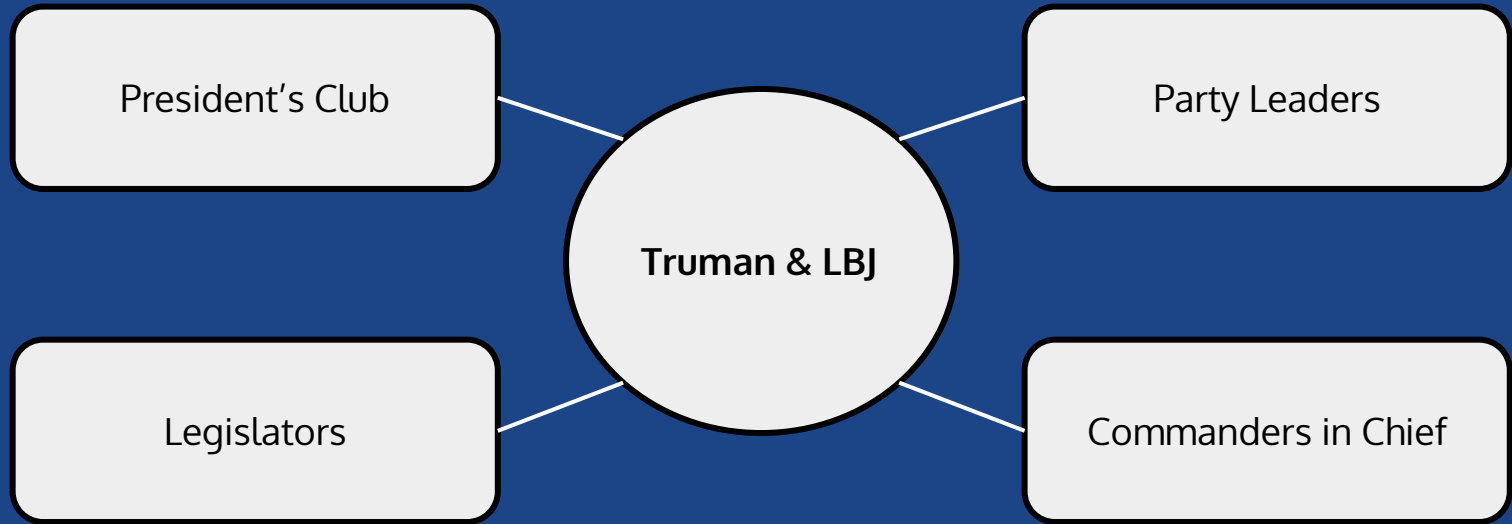
Few living (former) Presidents

Southerners

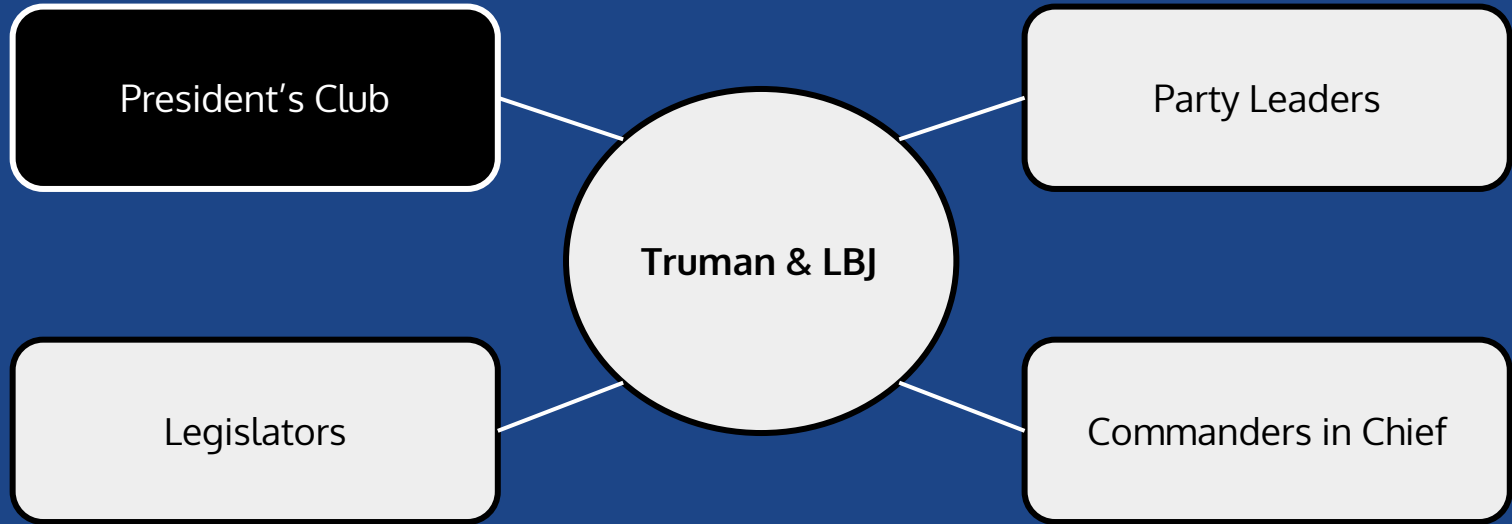
Democratic Southerners



THE TRUMAN-JOHNSON RELATIONSHIP



THE TRUMAN-JOHNSON RELATIONSHIP



MENTOR & GUIDE

Both assumed the Presidency after great trauma

- ☆ And after charismatic, beloved predecessors

Few living Presidents



PRESIDENTIAL PROXY



LBJ asked Truman & Bess to attend the funeral of King Paul (Greece) along with Lady Bird in his stead.



Lady Bird's Daily Diary from departure to Greece (March 10, 1964)



PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES

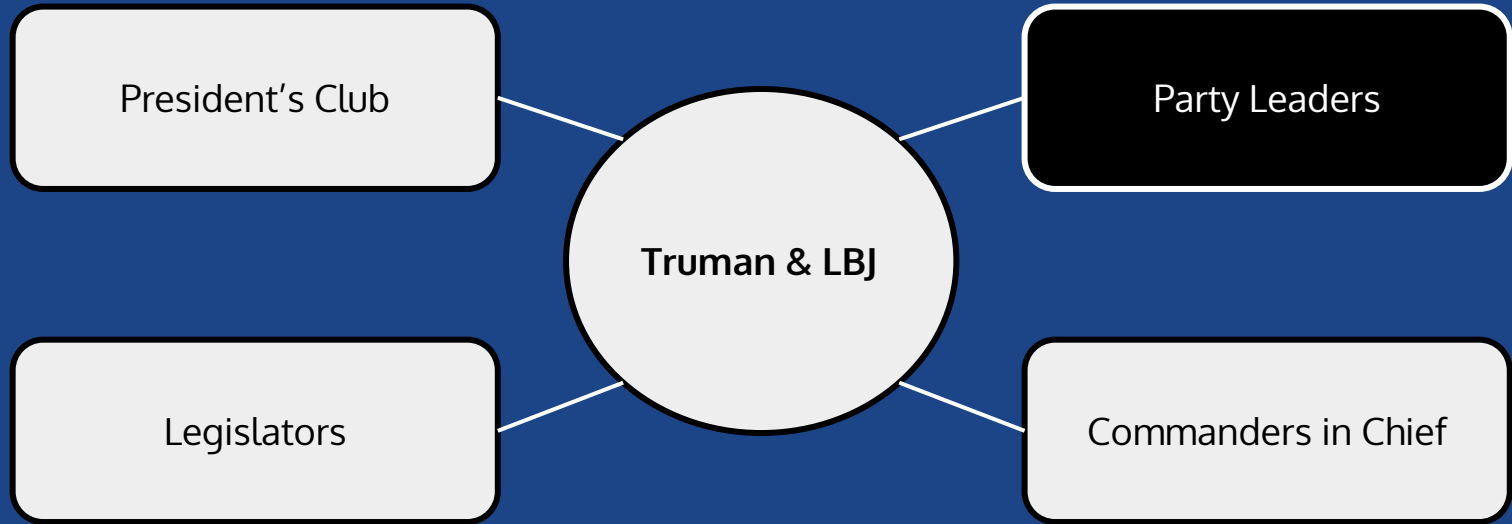
TRUMAN LIBRARY VISITS



1965 INAUGURATION



THE TRUMAN-JOHNSON RELATIONSHIP

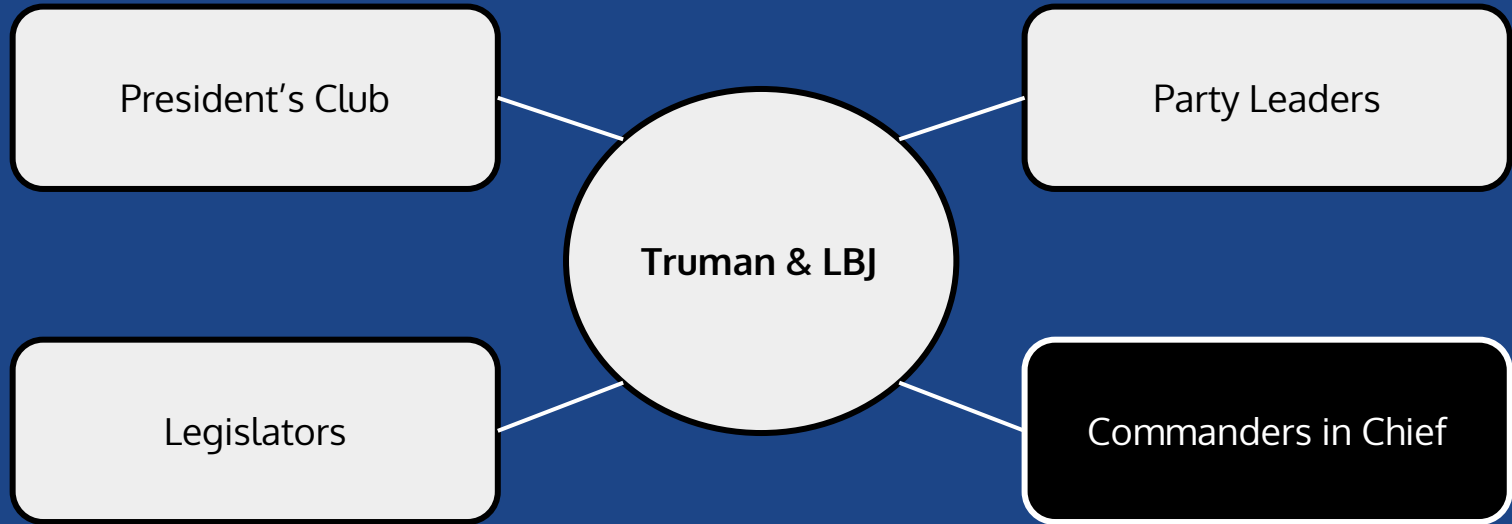


PARTY LEADERS

- ☆ Party Harmony
- ☆ Platform
- ☆ Elections & Success of Party



THE TRUMAN-JOHNSON RELATIONSHIP



CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Truman had Korea, LBJ had Vietnam

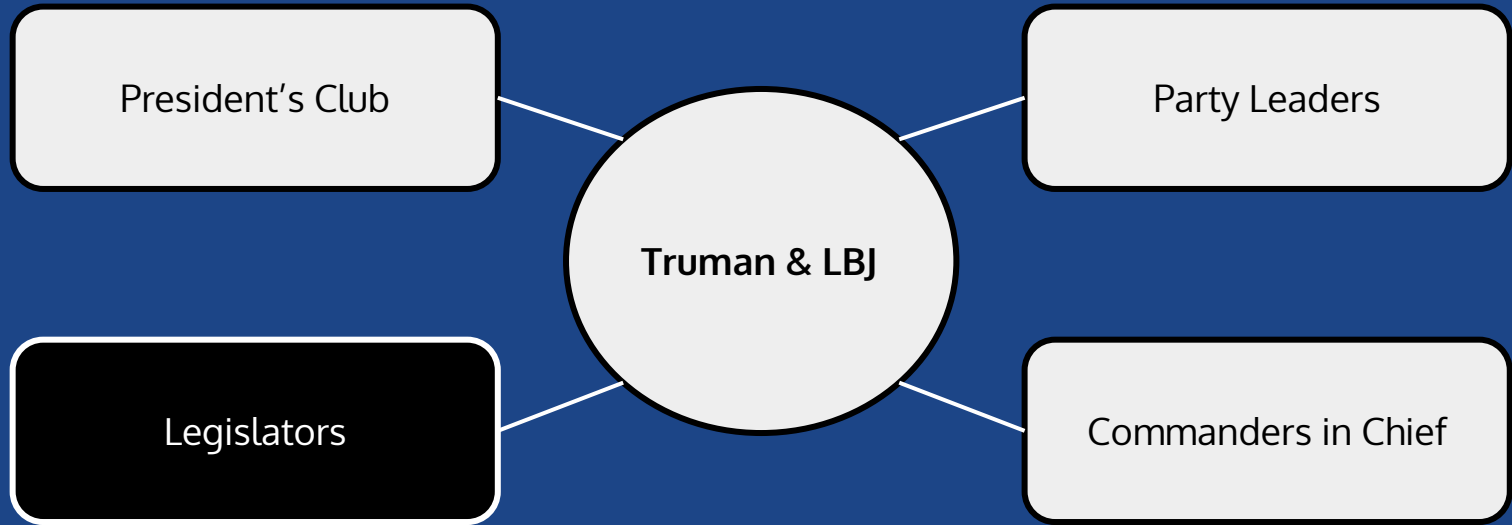
- ☆ LBJ learned from Truman's involvement in Korea & wanted to ensure more support for the conflict in Vietnam by securing Congress's authorization

Strength against communism

- ☆ The Cold War, China, & McCarthyism
- ☆ LBJ saw what the GOP did to Truman



THE TRUMAN-JOHNSON RELATIONSHIP



“liberalism’s unfinished agenda”

Medicare

- ☆ 1945 Attempt & 1965 Law

Civil Rights

- ☆ 1948 Executive Order & 1965 Law

Housing

- ☆ 1949 Law & 1968 Law

Education

- ☆ 1949 Speech & 1965 Laws



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In summary

Was it political? Yes

Was it politically beneficial? Yes

Was it genuine? Yes

Were they the best of friends? No

Was it adorable? Absolutely



STAY CONNECTED



Education@LBJFoundation.org

LBJLibrary.org/educate

